

SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE



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CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF THE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION
OF
SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE

SWEET BRIAR, VIRGINIA
1913

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Agreement Concerning the Student Government of Sweet Briar College

Our Petition.

The students of Sweet Briar College, believing that there is dignity and honor in student government, desire individual and community responsibility for the conduct of students in matters not strictly academic.

We, therefore, petition the President and Faculty for legislative and executive control in certain matters. We ask:

I.

Right to control quiet and promptness in all places about the buildings and campus that are not under the immediate control of a member of the Faculty.

II.

Right to control the outdoor exercise of the students.

III.

Permission, with the advice and approval of the Faculty, to extend our power as occasion arises and we prove worthy to be vested with greater power and authority.

IV.

Permission to make such additions to the above as we may feel are necessary, with the consent and approval of the President and Faculty.

Faculty's Reply.

The Faculty of Sweet Briar College endorses most cordially the desire of the student body to assume responsibility for the conduct of individual students in non-academic matters. Therefore, the Faculty accords permission to frame a constitution embodying laws regulating the points specified in the petition—said constitution to be submitted to the Faculty for endorsement.

Preamble

Whereas, We, the students of Sweet Briar College, desire to assume individual and community responsibility for the conduct of the students in matters not strictly academic, and whereas we believe that there is dignity and honor in student government, we do hereby, in accordance with the agreement between the Faculty and students, organize ourselves into an association.

Constitution

ARTICLE I.

The name of the Association shall be the Student Government Association of Sweet Briar College.

ARTICLE II.

The purpose of the Association shall be government by the student body in respect to:

1. Promptness at such collegiate exercises, and quiet and orderly conduct in such places in the buildings and on the campus as are not under the immediate control of a member of the Faculty.
2. Promptness to meals.

ARTICLE III.

All persons pursuing studies at Sweet Briar College and residing in college buildings are active members of the Association.

ARTICLE IV.

Section 1. In accordance with the resolution of the Faculty, dated October 20, 1906, the Association is empowered to

deal with the conduct of the students, both individually and collectively, in matters not strictly academic.

Section 2. The Association shall have the power of inflicting penalties to enforce the decisions to the extent of expelling a member from the Association.

ARTICLE V.

The executive power of the Association shall be vested in a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, an Executive Committee composed of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three other members, who, together with the Vice President, shall act as House Presidents of their respective dormitories; and in a Board of Proctors consisting of one Proctor from each district.

ARTICLE VI.

Section 1. Two-thirds of the members of the Association shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2. The seven officers of the Association shall be nominated by acclamation at a meeting of the Association held two weeks after the spring vacation, the nominations to be reduced to two by ballot and the elections to be made by ballot a week later at a meeting of the Association.

Section 3. All elections shall be by simple majority.

Section 4. The President of the Association shall be elected from the Senior or Junior class, the Vice President from the Senior or Junior class, the Secretary, Treasurer, and the three other members from any college class. One of these three may be from the non-collegiate body.

Section 5. The Proctors shall be appointed monthly by the Executive Committee, one Proctor for each district.

ARTICLE VII.

Section 1-A. It shall be the duty of the President to call and preside at all meetings of the Association, to act as Chairman of the Executive Committee, and of the Board of Proctors; to represent the students of the College on all occasions when the students require such representation, and to perform all the duties which pertain to the office of President of the Association.

Section 1-B. The President of the Association, as Chairman of the Executive Committee and Board of Proctors, shall have the power of calling a meeting of any committee or committees of the Association.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the Vice President to perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President and to act as a House President.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to record the proceedings of all meetings of the Association, and to keep a permanent record of the same; to report to the Faculty of the College for ratification all amendments to the constitution or the by-laws adopted by the Association; to submit to the President of the College for her approval lists of officers, committees, boards or other bodies appointed by the Association or its officers; to attend to all correspondence of the Association not coming directly under the duties of the Treasurer, and to perform all other duties pertaining to the office of Secretary of the Association. She shall also act as Secretary of the Executive Committee.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to collect the dues of the Association; all fines imposed by the Executive Committee and the Association; to keep a strict account of all money of the Association; and to expend the same according to the direction of the Executive Committee of the Association.

Section 5. It shall be the duty of each House President to serve as a member of the Executive Committee, and to exercise a general supervision over her district.

ARTICLE VIII.

Section 1. The duties of the Executive Committee shall be to see that judicial decisions and legislative resolutions of the Association are carried into effect; to execute its own decrees in matters not covered by such legislative resolutions; the action of the Committee, however, to be in all cases subject to revision or repeal by the Association sitting as a judicial body.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to inflict penalties, in accordance with the scheme of penalties allowed by the Faculty, for all breaches of rules reported to it by the Proctors; to receive the reports of neglect of duty of any Proctor, and to inflict penalties on the same to the extent of removing them from office or expulsion from the Association.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall have the power of summoning before it at its discretion any committee or board, any member or members of the Association, or of said committees or boards.

ARTICLE IX.

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the Board of Proctors to enforce the rules of the Association and to report to the House President all serious breaches of rules.

Section 2. Each Proctor shall be responsible for obedience to the rules in her own district and shall submit a weekly report to the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Each Proctor who fails to hand in reports at time designated by the Executive Committee shall be fined a quarter.

Section 4. Each Proctor shall report specifically as to names and offenses.

Section 5. Any Proctor who leaves her district shall report her absence to the House President, who will appoint a substitute.

ARTICLE X.

Section 1. The judicial power of the Association shall be vested:

A. In the Association sitting as a judicial body, which shall constitute the highest court, wherein the rules of the majority shall prevail, two-thirds of the members of the Association being present.

B. And in the Executive Committee, which shall constitute the lower court, before which all matters must first be

brought, and from which alone an appeal may be made to the whole Association.

ARTICLE XI.

A majority of those members of the Association who may be present at a meeting of the Association in the presence of a quorum, shall have all executive, legislative, and judicial power not prohibited in this constitution, and may confer authority upon the officers or upon the Executive Committee or upon any committee or committees that may be hereafter constituted.

ARTICLE XII.

Should a vacancy occur in any office of the Association or in the Executive Committee, it shall be filled by special election by the Association, the nomination being made by the Executive Committee. In case no one of the nominees should be elected by those members of the Association who may be present at the meeting of the Association in the presence of a quorum, the Association shall have the power to recommend for the consideration of the Executive Committee such persons as it shall deem worthy of the office.

ARTICLE XIII.

On the basis of a petition signed by one-tenth of the members of the Association, amendments to this constitution may be proposed to the Association sitting as a legislative body, which shall become valid to all intents and purposes as part of the constitution when ratified by two-thirds majority of the Association and approved by the Faculty of the College.

By-Laws

RESOLUTION I.

Resolved, That the Constitution and By-Laws of this Association be printed and a copy given to every member of the Association.

RESOLUTION II.

Resolved, That forty-eight hours previous to any meeting of the Association a notice of said meeting be posted on the students' bulletin board. In cases requiring immediate or private action this regulation may be set aside by the President.

RESOLUTION III.

Resolved, That the Executive Committee sitting as a court be empowered to require testimony from any member of the Association, and to inflict a penalty for refusal to testify, except in cases where for good and sufficient reasons it shall see fit to excuse the witness.

RESOLUTION IV.

Resolved, That in cases where the Executive Committee proceeds in the face of a denial, a reprimand shall issue or other penalty be imposed by the said committee only on the basis of a formal statement, signed by the Executive Com-

mittee, giving the nature of the testimony and the names of the witnesses. Such signed statement shall be presented to the accused if demanded by her.

RESOLUTION V.

Resolved, That the Proctors may be removed from office by the Executive Committee at any time if deemed inefficient in the performance of their duties.

RESOLUTION VI.

Resolved 1, That the College buildings be reasonably quiet at all times.

Resolved 2, That the buildings be absolutely quiet during the following hours:

Monday, 9:00 A. M.-12:00 M.; 10:30-P. M.-6:45 A. M.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 8:45 A. M.-1:15 P. M.; 2:10 P. M.-4:00 P. M.; 7:30 P. M.-10:00 P. M.; 10:30 P. M.-6:45 A. M.

Saturday, 8:45 A. M.-1:15 P. M.; 2:10 P. M.-3:00 P. M.; 10:30 P. M.-7:30 A. M.

Sunday, The conduct in the halls and dormitories shall be quiet and dignified at all times, and there shall be absolute quiet between 10:30 P. M. and 6:45 A. M.

RESOLUTION VII.

Resolved, That members of the Executive Committee be special Proctors.

Interpretation: The above resolution is interpreted as follows: That members of the Executive Committee have the power of Proctors at all times.

RESOLUTION VIII.

Resolved 1, That each student may be late to two meals per week.

Resolved 2, That each student shall pay a fine of twenty-five cents for every tardiness to meals after the two allowed per week.

RESOLUTION IX.

Resolved 1, That each student be allowed three chapel cuts every four weeks.

Interpretation: "Cuts" in the above resolution is interpreted as any absences from chapel exercises save those due to illness in the Infirmary and absences from College for longer than twenty-four hours.

Resolved 2, That absences from Sunday morning services be counted as two cuts.

Resolved 3, That only one of the three chapel cuts allowed every four weeks may be taken during examination week.

RESOLUTION X

Resolved, That the Student Government Association dues shall be fifty cents per semester.

RESOLUTION XI.

Resolved, That all disregard for dated "study" signs be reported to the Executive Committee.

RESOLUTION XII.

Resolved, That chafing-dishes shall not be used on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday nights.

RESOLUTION XIII.

Resolved, That all the offices held by students be divided into points, a certain number of points to each office.

One student may not hold more than fourteen points at one time.

Members of the Executive Board of Student Government may hold office in *one* other organization only.

SYSTEM OF POINTS

10 Points

President of Student Government Association.

President of Young Women's Christian Association.

President of Athletic Association.

President of Dramatic Association.

8 Points

Secretary of Student Government Association.

Treasurer of Student Government Association.
Treasurer of Athletic Association.
Editor-in-Chief of Annual.
Editor-in-Chief of Magazine.

6 Points

Secretary of Young Women's Christian Association.
Treasurer of Young Women's Christian Association.
Business Manager of Annual.
Business Manager of Magazine.

4 Points

Vice President of Student Government Association.
Executive Committee Members.
Vice President of Young Women's Christian Association.
Vice President of Athletic Association.
Vice President of Dramatic Association.
Secretary of Dramatic Association.
Treasurer of Dramatic Association.
Chairman of Temporary Committee.
Chairman of Standing Committee.
President of Dramatic Club.
Staff Members of Magazine.

2 Points

Members of Dramatic Committee.
Members of Social Service Committee.
Members of Extension Committee.

RESOLUTION XIV.

Resolved, That students be not allowed to throw trash of any kind on the campus.

RESOLUTION XV.

Resolved, That students be not allowed to mark or otherwise mar the school furniture.

RESOLUTION XVI.

Resolved 1, That all persons pursuing studies at Sweet Briar are expected to conform to the rules of the Association in regard to order and quiet.

Resolved 2, That all guests of students are expected to conform to the rules of the Association in regard to order and quiet.

RESOLUTION XVII.

Resolved, That any student who believes herself to have been unjustly reported by any member of the Executive Committee or Board of Proctors shall have the right to ask that a special meeting of the Executive Committee be called. At said meeting a statement of facts concerning the offense shall be made by the Proctor, and the student and witnesses, if any, after which a vote of the quorum of the Executive Committee shall be taken and the decision of the majority abided by. But the student may appeal to the Association through the Executive Committee.

RESOLUTION XVIII.

Resolved, That all secret organizations be forbidden. The penalty for infringement of this resolution shall be expulsion from the Association.

RESOLUTION XIX.

Section 1, We, the members of the Student Government Association of Sweet Briar College, do hereby assume individual and associate responsibility of supporting our standard of honor in all academic work.

Section 2, All action on the part of the Association in upholding our standard of honor shall be in the hands of a council which shall consist of one representative from each college class and three representatives from the non-collegiate body.

RESOLUTION XX.

Resolved, That no student who is deficient in her academic work, or not in good standing with the Student Government Association shall hold any office in the Association or be nominated for May Queen.

RESOLUTION XXI.

Resolved 1, That no student shall be eligible for a permanent committee of the Association until she has resided in the college for one semester.

Resolved 2, That should a vacancy in any office of the Association or in the Executive Committee occur at the opening of the first semester, nominations for said office shall be voted on only by those members of the Association who have resided at the college one semester.

RESOLUTION XXII.

Resolved, That the Executive Committee co-operate with the President of the College in the enforcement of those rules not directly under the jurisdiction of the Student Government Association, concerning the general conduct of the students. See rules and regulations drawn up by the President of the College and Executive Committee.

RESOLUTION XXIII.

Resolved 1, That violation of the rules and regulations of the Association be classified as serious and semi-serious offenses, two semi-serious offenses being counted as one serious.

Resolved 2, (a) That the following offenses be considered serious:

1. Taking more than the allotted number of chapel cuts per month.
2. Lights and drawing of water after 10:30 P. M.

(b) That disturbances during any quiet hour be considered as semi-serious offenses.

Penalties Imposed
By Executive Committee

I. For taking more than allotted number of chapel cuts per month.

(a) For first overcut a student shall be considered in bad standing with the Student Government Association and campused* for a period of five weeks.

(b) For second overcut a student shall be publicly reprimanded, considered in bad standing with the Student Government Association and campused for a period of eight weeks.

II. For other serious offenses:—

(a) For first serious offense a student shall be called before the President of the Association.

(b) For the second serious offense she shall be called before the Executive Committee, put on probation and campused for a period of four weeks.

(c) For the third serious offense a student shall be publicly reprimanded, considered in bad standing with the Student Government Association and campused for a period of eight weeks.

III. For any flagrant violation of rules the Executive Committee shall have the power of dealing with a student to the extent of expulsion from the Association.

*When a student is "campused" she is expected to remain within the following limits: north, the beginning of the woods; east, the last house in the professors' row; south, the wind break; west, the grounds immediately around Sweet Briar House.

